



February 27, 2023
Joan Dyer, CNA
District 1199 New England
Before the Finance Committee

In Support of HB 5673 AN ACT CONCERNING THE REFORMATION OF CERTAIN TAXES AND TAX EQUITY

Good Afternoon Senator Fonfara, Representative Horn and members of the Committee, my name is Joan Dyer. I am a CNA at New Haven Center For Nursing and I live in Hamden. I am here today to testify in support of House Bill 5673. Connecticut leads in income inequality, leaving the poorest residents to deal with education gaps, health disparities, unattainable home ownership and other hardships. Lawmakers can fund a [Recovery For All](#) by passing a package that looks like House Bill 5673 - and would provide relief to those who are struggling.

I love being a CNA because I love taking care of my patients. I help them with Activities of Daily living. I help them bathe, I help feed them, and care for them. Sometimes I feel bad because I can't get to spend the time that I want to spend with them to provide care for them because of short staffing. I have been a CNA for 22 years, and it has never been this bad. We are having a hard time recruiting staff to work in Nursing Homes because of the low pay. Better pay would mean better staffing levels and would make others want to come in this field. I myself want to leave many times, but can't bring myself to because when I think about all these residents it breaks my heart. When I leave work and go home I always feel guilty because I want to do more for my residents but usually don't have the time because of the short staffing.

As the wealthiest state in the country, Connecticut should be a shining example for the nation where every family has what we need to live a good life. But instead we have a state where hundreds of thousands of working people are struggling to raise families, even while a handful of wealthy corporations and wealthy residents are getting even wealthier. This crisis demands a bold response—people are suffering and our state has a responsibility, and has the resources to enact policies that provide for Connecticut families. Please pass House Bill 5673. Thank you for your time.